AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0012] with the following amended paragraph:

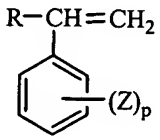
[0012] Another development is the use of certain cyclic phosphates, for example, diphenyl pentaerythritol diphosphate, as a flame retardant agent for poly(arylene ether) resins, as is described by Axelrod in U.S. Pat. No. ~~4,254,775~~ 4,154,775.

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] In the final blend, the flame retardant is preferably present in at least the minimum amount necessary to impart a degree of flame retardancy to the blend to pass the UL-94 protocol at a rating of V-0, V-1, or V-2 depending on the specific application requirements. In one embodiment, the blend, after being set on fire, will extinguish itself in about 30 seconds or less, preferably about 20 seconds or less, more preferably about 10 seconds or less. The particular amount will vary, depending on the molecular weight of the organic phosphate, the amount of the flammable resin present and possibly other normally flammable ingredients which might also be included in the blend. The organic phosphate flame retardants are generally present in the blends in amounts of about 2 to about 35 wt.%, preferably about 5 to about 30 wt.%, and most preferably about 10 to about 25wt.%, based on the total weight of the blend.

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following amended paragraph:

[0023] Also optionally included in the blend is one or more poly(styrene) polymers. Useful poly(styrene) polymers include at least one polymer derived from one or more vinyl aromatic monomers in the described blend of general formula III:



(III)

wherein R is hydrogen, a lower alkyl group having from 1 to 7 carbon atoms, or a halogen; Z is a hydrogen, vinyl group, a halogen, or a lower alkyl group having from 1 to 7 carbon atoms; and p is from 0 to about 5. These resins include homopolymers of styrene, chlorostyrene, vinyl toluene, alpha-methyl styrene, bromostyrene, chlorostyrene, and dibromostyrene, as well as the polymers formed by the copolymerization of styrene with any of the substituted units listed above, particularly alpha-methyl styrene or dibromostyrene. Homostyrene resin, commonly called crystal polystyrene, is preferred.

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

[0024] Useful copolymers include random, radial, linear di-, linear tri- and/or tapered block copolymers. Random copolymers of styrene with one or more monomers such as acrylonitrile, butadiene, alpha-methylstyrene, ethylvinylbenzene, divinylbenzene and maleic anhydride may also be used, as well as rubber-modified polystyrenes comprising blends and grafts, wherein the rubber is a polybutadiene or a rubbery copolymer of about 50 to about 98 wt.% styrene and about 2 to about 50 wt.% diene monomer. In one embodiment, the rubber-modified polystyrene comprises up to about 50% diene monomer units. A preferred rubber-modified polystyrene is FINACLEAR™ 520, available from Fina Oil and Chemical Company.

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] It is preferred, however, that when other vinyl aromatic monomers are employed, that they be present in amounts less than about 10 wt.%, and more preferably less than about 6.5 wt.% of the styrene. However, it is most preferred that the only vinyl aromatic monomer be styrene, so that the styrene polymer is a homopoly(styrene). The poly(styrene) polymer is used in amounts of 0 to about 80 wt.%, preferably about 10 to about 70 wt.%, and most preferably about 20 to about 50 wt.%. The rubber-modified poly(styrene) polymer is used in amounts of about 5 to about 50 wt.%, preferably about 10 to about 40 wt.%, and most preferably about 15 to about 35 wt.%. In one embodiment, the composition comprises a rubber-modified poly(styrene) resin and further comprises about 1 to about 80 wt.% of a poly(styrene) resin.

Please replace paragraph [0026] with the following amended paragraph:

[0026] An impact modifier is commonly used to improve the impact properties of the molded blend. Although the SBS copolymer is one example of a block copolymer that can be used as an impact modifier, those skilled in the art will recognize that variations on the general structure shown in formula can alternatively be used, including, but not limited to, block copolymers of the A-B-A, A-B, A-B-C, and A-B-C-A types. Examples of these types are styrene-butadiene-styrene, styrene-butadiene, styrene-ethylene-butadiene, styrene-ethylene-propylene, styrene-ethylene-butadiene-styrene, and styrene-ethylene-propylene-styrene. Styrene acrylates are also useful as impact modifiers. Styrene-butadiene (SB) and styrene-butadiene-styrene (SBS) copolymers are preferred. The impact modifier is used in amounts of from 0 to about 15 wt.% or from 1 to about 15 wt.%, preferably 0 to about 10 wt.%, and most preferably from 0 to about 5 wt.%.